

# **PUBLIC EDUCATION & TRAINING PLAN**

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Prepared by: Office of Community Corrections

# **Michigan Department of Corrections Office of Community Corrections**

## **Public Education & Training Plan for Fiscal Year 2001**

### ***Introduction***

The Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Community Corrections (the office) works together with a State and Local Training Committee for the community corrections act training suggestions. The committee has members from the department, State Community Corrections Board, the Michigan Association of Community Corrections Advisory Boards, and the Michigan Association for Community Corrections Advancement. Committee meetings occur periodically during the year.

The office prepares this Public Education and Training Plan, pursuant to Section 704(3) of Act No. 237 of the Public Acts of 2000, the Fiscal Year 2001 appropriations act for corrections programs. The content of this report includes summaries of the training events delivered in Fiscal Year 2000, and the training plan, objectives, training tools, technical assistance, and public education for Fiscal Year 2001.

In addition to department resources, governmental entities that provided various resources to support the Fiscal Year 2000 Public Education and Training Plan (the plan) included Michigan State University, Michigan State Police, Correctional Service of Canada, and National Institute of Corrections for presenters, various federal agencies for publications, and participating local units of government that defray travel and related costs for attendees they send.

The plan supported demonstration projects, quarterly/regional events and a conference as follows:

***Workshops for Demonstration Projects*** in cognitive change; education, employability and employment; public education training; and assessment processes occurred in December 1999, and January 2000. Also, in June 2000, the department's Office of Program Services sponsored a cognitive behavioral substance abuse training provided by Dr. Kenneth B. Wanberg and Dr. Harvey B. Milkman called "Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse Treatment; Strategies for Self-Control and Change," which included training slots for demonstration project stakeholders.

The main objectives for the demonstration projects are to strengthen content and quality, evaluation capabilities, and instate training and technical support within the focus areas of the demonstration project. About 30 to 100 attendees participated in special training events.

***Quarterly/Regional Training*** occurred in March 2000, and June 2000. The March event focused on the P.A. 511 comprehensive plan and annual application process, while the June event addressed how to improve skills to effectively work with stakeholders to agree on and achieve mutual goals and objectives, featuring Harvard's "Mutual Gains" model. Michigan State University Extension Specialists Dr. Lela Vandenberg, Gary Taylor and Beth Moore facilitated this workshop called "Effective Community Corrections: Meeting Challenges and Accomplishing the Mission."

*The Annual Conference “The Future Is Now”* was opened by Director Bill Martin in September 2000. Director Martin spoke on Habitat for Humanity’s partnership with the department. Through this partnership, offenders serve the community and learn to improve job skills in the process - a win/win scenario.

Numerous experts in their fields spoke at the conference to introduce or reinforce the knowledge of attendees in effective correctional interventions and policies, community probation/parole theory (“Broken Windows”), case planning, data evaluation, cognitive behavioral change programs for offender populations, probation residential services, and methamphetamine interdiction and treatment. Also, technology exhibits of electronic monitoring, career development, interactive education, automated case management and assessments, and information management systems utilized within Michigan were included.

Attendees ordered or received numerous federal publications on community corrections research, case management strategies, substance abuse treatment and testing, mentally ill and special offender populations, job placement for ex-offenders, establishing, maintaining and sharing interagency information, and sentencing reform at an on-site conference display.

Every conference attendee, field operations administrator and area manager received Transforming Probation Through Leadership: The “Broken Windows” Model, published by the Center for Civic Innovation at the Manhattan Institute in conjunction with the National Association of Probation Executives, American Probation and Parole Association and the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

In all, the conference served about 160 community correction stakeholders. Conference workshop presentations received evaluations ranging from overall ratings of 3.7 to 4.5, out of a 5-point scale.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001**

### ***The Plan and Objectives for Fiscal Year 2001***

The plan supports periodic training, and continued technical assistance to jurisdictions to build upon training received in Fiscal Year 2000, and is subject to change in cooperation with the State and Local Training Committee. The office will assist community corrections advisory boards (CCABs) in applying the training to better implement local comprehensive corrections plans, taking into account the training needs of the new and experienced professionals in the field.

The State and Local Training Committee discussed topics in community corrections under consideration for the conference, including, but not limited to, interpersonal communication, effective writing, cognitive behavioral modalities, data analysis and evaluation, system mapping, sentencing reform, application preparation, utilization of assessments to strengthen case planning and case management, case management, special offender populations, technological advancements, a continuum of services, criminal justice statistics, etc.

The committee also discussed the feasibility of developing the initial portion of a manual for community corrections, and providing content primarily for new CCAB managers.

For Fiscal Year 2001, the training emphasis will be on implementing effective interventions for recidivism-prone offender populations, such as, the priority straddle cell offenders, probation violators and parole violators, consistent with the following three objectives:

- Train CCABs and other criminal justice professionals on pertinent community corrections issues, particularly in effective policies, interventions, planning, assessment, and targeting processes.
- Improve and strengthen cognitive behavioral, and education, employability and employment programs, and utilization of assessments to improve case planning, case management monitoring/evaluation functions in cooperation with local boards, probation and the judiciary.
- Monitor sentencing reform impact and arrange or provide training as needed.

### ***Training Tools***

#### Training Events

The office plans to continue jointly developed training events using experts in fields germane to the operation, management and use of community corrections policies and programs. The State and Local Training Committee plans as needed to discuss the training agenda being developed for the year. Training will be tailored with stakeholders from areas within the state, consistent with achieving the three objectives previously identified. The office will seek technical assistance resources from National Institute of Corrections and other agencies/organizations to augment public education and training.

#### Community Corrections Advisory Board Manual

The office will regroup with interested community correction stakeholders to plan for the development of a manual for community corrections that can be used as a reference tool to improve implementation of community corrections policies and programs based on the principles of effective correctional interventions and other evidence-based correctional practices.

#### What Works Strategies

The office will provide technical assistance to community corrections stakeholders for developing and implementing strategies to strengthen correctional policies, programs and practices consistent with principles of effective interventions. These efforts will include but are not limited to: public education messages to deliver to criminal justice stakeholders and citizens about the principles of effective intervention for appropriate offender populations; technical assistance and training relative to assessment processes and utilization of assessments to guide case planning and case management; methods to improve targeting and matching of offenders to programs; improved capacity to collect and use data for assessing and evaluating pilot programs and policies, with the aim of modeling those evidence-based practices where feasible within the state.

## ***Technical Assistance***

In Fiscal Year 2001, the office will continue technical assistance for CCABs to:

### **Monitor Impact from Criminal Justice Policy Changes**

Key areas to monitor include changes in sentencing guidelines and target populations; jail reimbursement; probation violation response guidelines and sanctions; sentencing recommendation guidelines and sentencing options. The office and State Community Corrections Board will continue to monitor the impact due to changes in sentencing guidelines, and other laws that may impact prison commitments and jail utilization.

### **Strengthen Cooperation Within Community Corrections Network**

The office will continue to provide technical assistance to CCABs to facilitate further cooperation and communication by the members of the local community corrections network, including board members, and staff from the offices of probation, prosecutor, court, sheriff and defense counsel.

### **Improve Data and Evaluation Capabilities**

The office will continue to provide technical assistance to local advisory board managers for improving capabilities to analyze data, evaluate programs, and monitor program quality in order to make improvements in the comprehensive corrections plan and implementation strategies.

## ***Public Education Target Audiences***

The office will work with CCAB's to foster public education efforts consistent with the needs of their local community. Public education target audiences may include, but not be limited to:

- Criminal Justice System including Probation/Parole, Judiciary, Attorneys, Courts, Law Enforcement, Correctional Institutions
- Community Service Providers & Professional Organizations
- Media
- Public
- Community Corrections Advisory Boards
- Offenders' & Their Families
- Business Community
- Community Service Agencies & Organizations
- Government Officials
- Local and State Elected Officials
- Schools & Universities
- Religious Community

## ***Public Education Key Messages***

Public education efforts for community corrections may use media opportunities, speeches, brochures, and other publications. The purpose is to demonstrate how community supervision programs have become successful alternatives to incarceration, in Michigan and nationally. These efforts demonstrate community corrections:

- Is Cost-Effective
- Provides Accountability for Violators of Crime
- Reduces Recidivism
- Promotes Effective Treatment
- Involves Citizens in the Criminal Justice System
- Eases Prison and Jail Overcrowding

### ***Conclusion***

The Fiscal Year 2001 Public Education and Training Plan supports a foundation that has been established in using effective correctional interventions with prison bound populations that do not have a pattern of violence. Ideally, the training, technical assistance and public education aspects of the plan will support efforts to reduce prison intakes from initial sentencing, and reduce probation and parole violator commitments for both short and long-term success.